IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Page 1, line 1, delete the word "Title";

line 2, after the title line insert the heading:

--BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION--;

line 3, delete this line and insert the heading:

--a)   Field of the Invention--;

line 8, delete this line and insert the heading:

--b)   Description of the Related Art--;

Page 4, line 9, delete this line and insert the heading:

--OBJECT AND SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION--;

line 10, after "It is the" insert --primary--;

Page 5, line 27, delete this line and insert the heading:

--BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS--;

after this line insert the paragraph:

--In the drawings:--;

Page 6, line 3, after "invention;" insert --and--;

line 5, delete this line and insert the heading:

--DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS--;

Page 8, last line, after this line insert the following paragraph:

--While the foregoing description and drawings represent the

present invention, it will be obvious to those skilled in the art that

various changes may be made therein without departing from the
true spirit and scope of the present invention.--

IN THE CLAIMS

Change "Claims" to --What is claimed is--.

Delete claims 1-4 without prejudice and add new claims 5-8, reading as
follows:

--5. A transport system for transporting and handling microtiter plates, for
use in high throughput screening, diagnosis and/or combinatorial chemistry,
comprising:

modules with devices for at least one or more of the following:

preparing specimens, introducing specimens, optical readout, plate
storage, and devices for further processing steps or readout steps;

at least one central transport system; and

an inter-modular transport system for transporting the microtiter plates
between said different devices and said at least one central transport system for
asynchronous plate transfer between individual modules via input and output buffers.

6. The transport system according to claim 5, wherein input and output
buffers and transport units are provided in the modules.

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